

Oct 15 2026 3:37 pm



WELCOME TO THE FITCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 2026

**Fitchburg Legislative Building
700 Main Street
Fitchburg MA 01420
7:00 PM**

This meeting can also be viewed live on FATV. Go to www.fatv.org/watch-fatv for more information on accessing this meeting.

This is intended to help you understand the meeting format and assist you with the rules of the Council as they pertain to your participation.

All meetings of the Fitchburg City council are open to the public. This does not mean that the public participates in all aspects of the meeting. It simply means that the meeting itself, including all discussions and votes, is open for public view.

Executive Session

The only time a Council meeting can be closed to the public is when the Council votes for Executive Session in order to discuss sensitive matters in private, such as pending litigation. Any votes taken however, must be taken in open session.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK DURING A COUNCIL MEETING:

Public Forum

The Public Forum occurs immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance. The President will ask if anyone in the audience wishes to speak on any matter appearing on the Agenda. If you wish to address the Council, you must stand and be recognized and follow these rules before speaking:

1. State your name and city of residence.
2. Approach the center table and either stand or sit. This allows you to be seen and heard clearly by everyone in attendance.
3. You may speak only on items appearing on the agenda for no more than (2) minutes. Copies of the agenda are available on the center table prior to the meeting.
4. Please state the petition, order, ordinance, or resolution number to which you refer.

Public Hearings

Public hearings are held on various issues such as Special Permits and Zoning changes. The same rules apply with the following exceptions:

1. You must stand and be recognized either "in favor" or "in opposition" when asked by the Council President.
 2. You need not refer to the petition number.
- If you have any questions or comments either before or after the meeting, any Councilor would be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your interest!

I. PUBLIC FORUM

This meeting will be open to the public. Persons who wish to participate remotely in the Public Forum portion of the meeting may request a remote attendance link by contacting the City Clerk at cityclerk@fitchburgma.gov by 12:00 PM (noon) on the day of meeting.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Appointments Committee

Oral Report

Meeting of October 20, 2026

New Appointment:

Fitchburg Agricultural Commission

Miatta Edo-Osagie

(Term to expire October 1, 2029)

New-Appointments:

Fitchburg Cultural Council

Abigail Battles

Racheal Xavier

Stephanie Lee

(Term to expire October 1, 2029)

Re-Appointments:

Fitchburg Agricultural Commission

Dominic Iacopino

James K. Momanyi

(Term to expire April 1, 2028)

IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RECORDS

Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 6, 2026

V. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Meeting of October 14, 2026

Oral Report

- 162-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, in the approximate amount of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$20,000), awarded to the city Recreation Program from the DESE After School and Out of School Time Program Grant to cover the cost of weekly STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) activities throughout the school year in collaboration with the Fitchburg Public Library.
(Be Adopted)
- 163-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of a donation from the Friends of Coggs Hall Park, in the approximate amount of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000) toward the purchase and installation of a new playground at Coggs Hall Park.
(Be Adopted)
- 164-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves an expenditure by the Parks Department of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000) from the Henry F. Coggs Hall Trust toward the purchase and installation of a new playground at Coggs Hall Park.
(Be Adopted)

Legislative Affairs Committee

Meeting of October 20, 2026

Oral Report

- 168-26. President Zarrella, on behalf of Marisa R. Fleming, to petition for Special Legislation relative to the creditable service of Marisa R. Fleming, as outlined in the enclosed petition.
[Special Legislation Relative to Creditable Service](#)

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 169-26. 7 BEEKMAN ST – Unitil petitions to relocate Pole #8 (Salem St.). The proposed Pole #8 would be relocated approximately 26 feet from its original location and would be situated approximately 80 feet from Beekman St. and approximately 415 feet from Spruce St., Fitchburg.
- 170-26. 470 ALPINE ROAD – Unitil petitions to install a new midspan Pole #30A on Alpine Road. The proposed Pole #30A would be situated approximately 52 feet from existing Pole #30 and approximately 997 feet from the intersection of McIntire Road, Fitchburg.

VII. ORDERS – FINANCE

- 172-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate grant funds in the approximate amount of TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,979,000) from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Eco One Stop Grant to complete the construction phase of the McTaggart Pond Dam Removal and Phillips Brook Restoration Project.
- 173-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate grant funds in the approximate amount of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$133,700) from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Eco One Stop Grant to conduct a feasibility study to assess removal of the Overlook Reservoir Dam and Dike, or lowering the normal pool elevations.
- 174-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate grant funds in the approximate amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$150,000) to advance the design and permitting for two replacement culverts along Ashby West Road.
- 175-26. ORDER THAT: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT AND 40/100 DOLLARS (\$22,658.40) same to be charged against RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION - TNC PER RIDE ASSESSMENT and credited to DPW CAPITAL EXPENSES - STREET REPAIR for the purpose of road repaving.
- 176-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate grant funds in the approximate amount of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$260,000) from the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Land and Water Conservation Grant Fund, toward construction of the Riverfront Park Stage.
The total project cost is \$520,000; this reimbursable grant will supplement previous appropriations from New Vue Communities, State Earmarks, Beers for Good, and CDBG Year 52.
- 177-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$40,000) from RESERVE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES for title searches, appraisals, and easements related to the construction of new sidewalks leading to Memorial Middle School.
- 178-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$64,575) from RESERVE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES to address DEP clean-up costs at several city-owned sites.

179-26. ORDER THAT: the City of Fitchburg appropriate TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND 80/100 DOLLARS (\$205,817.80) from RESERVE FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES to cover the following Fiscal Year 2026 budget deficits:

LAW OTHER EXPENSES – Labor Negotiator	\$197.39
BOARD OF HEALTH – Rubbish Removal	\$4,420.26
BOARD OF HEALTH – Sanitary Landfill Expenses	\$61,110.18
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Workers Compensation	\$139,810.35
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – Medicare	\$279.62

VIII. LOAN ORDER

180-26. LOAN ORDER: that Loan Order #019-25, which was ordered by this Council on March 18, 2025 and authorized a borrowing of \$11,400,000 for various water projects, is hereby amended by replacing it in its entirety to read as follows:

ORDERED: That \$11,400,000 aggregate amount is appropriated for the following projects, including all costs incidental and related thereto, which amount may be apportioned to such projects as needed to accomplish the projects: (i) rehabilitation and/or upgrade of the Meetinghouse Gatehouse and Mare Meadow/Bickford Pump Station, at an estimated cost of \$4,220,000; (ii) Main Street water main replacement project, at an estimated cost of \$3,290,000, which amount is expected to be used in addition to certain American Rescue Plan Act funds available for the project; (iii) Regional Water Treatment Plant roof replacement and/or weatherproofing project, at an estimated cost of \$740,000; (iv) Water Street water main replacement project, at an estimated cost of \$1,750,000; and (v) Exeter Street and Rodimon Avenue water main replacement projects, including fire hydrants and domestic/fire service lines, at an estimated cost of \$1,400,000, which amount is expected to be used in addition certain other funds available through the City's annual operating budget; and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow \$11,400,000 under G.L. c.44, §8 or any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the projects; that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects; and that the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

(Refer to Finance)

IX. RESOLUTION

- 181-26. RESOLUTION: NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City Council of Fitchburg thanks and honors Ronald B. Ingemie for his distinguished service and lasting contributions to the City and its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a portrait of Ron Ingemie and a plaque memorializing his service, the same to be donated by private parties, be displayed in the Legislative Building.

(Legislative Affairs)

X. ORDINANCES

- 166-26. AN ORDINANCE: President Zarrella and Vice President Cruz, to amend §3-19 and §3-43 of the City Code, concerning the management and responsibilities of the City Clerk, as detailed in the enclosed ordinance.

[Amend §3-19 and §3-43 of the City Code](#)

(Final Reading)

- 167-26. AN ORDINANCE: That the General Ordinance of the City of Fitchburg, Chapter 164, shall be repealed in its entirety.

Ref. petition 150-26

(Final Reading)

XI. PETITIONS

- 182-26. Councilor Fleming, on behalf of Darren Plante, requests the installation of a guardrail or other suitable barrier in front of the fence at Fitchburg Storage, located at 149 Upham Street. This measure is intended to prevent further damage to the fence caused by vehicles traveling at excessive speeds from JFH, rounding the corner toward Jackson Avenue.

(Public Safety)

- 183-26. Councilor Fleming, on behalf of Samuel Blair of 304 High Rock Rd. requests the installation of a stop sign or flashing slow-down sign on Richardson Rd heading towards Ashby State Rd. at the High Rock Rd intersection. Increased traffic has made it dangerous to exit High Rock Rd due to low visibility and speeding vehicles.

(Public Safety)

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Special Meeting of the Fitchburg City Council – Tax Classification

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Immediately following the Finance Committee meeting, which begins at 6:00 PM

Next Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 7:00 PM